

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application in view of the amendments above and the remarks following is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-37 are in this case. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 19, 25 and 32-37 have been rejected under § 102(e). Claims 4, 7-18, 20-24 and 26-31 have been objected to. Claims 4, 20, 26 and 32 has been canceled. Independent claims 1, 19, 25, 33 and 35 and dependent claims 5, 7, 8, 12, 16, 21, 27 and 28 have been amended.

The claims before the Examiner are directed toward a method of routing a data packet from a forwarding router to a downstream router. The data packet is provided with a header that includes an address that includes a bit string. The forwarding router is provided with a database of prefixes in which the forwarding router looks up the prefix that best matches the bit string. The forwarding router then attaches to the data packet a clue that is related to the best matching prefix, and forwards the data packet to the downstream router. The downstream router is provided with another database of prefixes in which the downstream router looks up, with reference to the clue, the prefix that best matches the bit string.

§ 102(e) Rejections – Rekhter ‘820

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-3, 5, 6, 19, 25, 32 and 35-37 under § 102(e) as being anticipated by Rekhter, US Patent No. 5,917,820. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 32 has been canceled, thereby rendering moot the Examiner's rejection of this claim.

As described below, independent claims 1, 19 and 25 have been placed in condition for allowance by the inclusion therein of the limitations of claims 4, 20 and

26, respectively. It follows that claims 2, 3, 5, 6 and 37, that depend therefrom, also are allowable.

Independent claim 35 has been amended to include limitations analogous to the limitations, recited in claims 4, 20 and 26, that render claims 1, 19 and 25 allowable. Therefore, independent claim 35 is allowable in its present form. Support for this amendment is found in claims 4, 20 and 26 as filed. It follows that claim 36, that depends from claim 35, also is allowable.

§ 102(e) Rejections – Tappan ‘296

The Examiner has rejected claims 33 and 34 under § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tappan, US Patent No. 6,295,296. The Examiner’s rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 33 has been amended to include limitations analogous to the limitations, recited in claims 4, 20 and 26, that render claims 1, 19 and 25 allowable. Therefore, independent claim 33 is allowable in its present form. Support for this amendment is found in claims 4, 20 and 26 as filed. It follows that claim 34, that depends from claim 33, also is allowable.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract as having more than 150 words. The Abstract now has been replaced with a replacement Abstract that includes 129 words.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to Figure 3. In Figure 3, the arrow that points to the clue 011* should point to the clue 0001*. Attached please find a corrected Figure 3 in which the lower arrow now points to the clue 0001*.

Objections to the Claims

The Examiner has objected to claims 4, 7-18, 20-24 and 26-31 as being based on rejected base claims. The Examiner has noted that claims 4, 7-18, 20-24 and 26-31 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Claim 4 now has been rewritten in independent form by amending claim 1 to include the limitations of claim 4. Claim 20 now has been rewritten in independent form by amending claim 19 to include the limitations of claim 20. Claim 26 has been rewritten in independent form by amending claim 25 to include the limitations of claim 26. Correspondingly, claims 4, 20 and 26 have been canceled, claims 7, 8 and 16 have been amended to depend from claim 1, claim 21 has been amended to depend from claim 19 and claims 27 and 28 have been amended to depend from claim 25..

Claims 7-18 now are allowable by virtue of depending from claim 1. Claims 21-24 now are allowable by virtue of depending from claim 19. Claims 27-31 now are allowable by virtue of depending from claim 25.

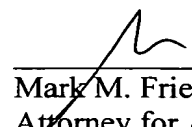
The Examiner has objected to the capitalization of the "I" in "if" in claim 12. Claim 12 now has been amended to correct this inadvertent typographical error.

Other Amendments to the Claims

Stylistic amendments have been made to claim 5. An inadvertent spelling error has been corrected in claim 25.

In view of the above amendments and remarks it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 19, 25, 33 and 35, and hence dependent claims 2, 3, 5-18, 21-24, 27-31, 34, 36 and 37, are in condition for allowance. Prompt notice of allowance is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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